

ensure that State and local educational agencies implement an effective certification process for school leaders. My legislation will address the need to effectively train and retain school leaders to prepare our children to compete in the global economy.

The Fordham Foundation conducted a study on the effectiveness of current state licensing procedures and noted that they have "little relevance to the task at hand [and] discourage the leaders we need from entering our public schools." As a result, school leaders, particularly those in under-performing schools, are often unprepared to foster student success. That is why I am sponsoring the Improving the Leadership and Effectiveness of Administrators for Districts (I LEAD) Act.

As the number of openings for school leaders is expected to increase by 20 percent in the next five years, districts will find it increasingly difficult to recruit and retain effective principals. We need to ensure outgoing school leaders are replaced with effective, well-trained school leaders who are prepared to raise student achievement.

The I LEAD Act would allow State and local educational agencies to evaluate the effectiveness of their current school leadership licensure requirements by examining the impact on student achievement, graduation rates, parental involvement, and safety within their schools. It also provides grants to implement a plan to recruit and effectively train school leaders by providing on-the-job experience during the licensure process, financial incentives, ongoing professional development, and mentors during their first two years on the job.

Under this bill, the Department of Education would conduct a study on the effectiveness of these grants on student achievement. Upon successful implementation of new procedures, state education agencies may apply for additional grant money through the Department for assistance in replicating the success of this "model leadership zone" throughout the state. Grants would also be used to reform the state certification process.

School leaders have a significant impact on student achievement. An effective and capable school leader can make the difference in providing the tools and instructional support staff needed to foster the type of school environment conducive to student academic success. This legislation would ensure that our principals are given the training and support they need to foster student success.

The I LEAD Act addresses the need to effectively train and retain school leaders to prepare our children to compete in the global economy. I am hopeful that my Senate colleagues from both sides of the aisle will join me today to move this legislation to the floor without delay.

SUBMITTED RESOLUTIONS

SENATE RESOLUTION 102—SUPPORTING THE GOALS OF "INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S DAY"

Mr. BIDEN (for himself, Mrs. BOXER, Ms. CANTWELL, Mrs. CLINTON, Mrs. FEINSTEIN, Ms. KLOBUCHAR, Ms. LANDRIEU, and Ms. MIKULSKI, Mrs. MURRAY, and Ms. STABENOW) submitted the following resolution; which was considered and agreed to:

S. RES. 102

Whereas there are more 3,000,000,000 women in the world, representing 49.7 percent of the world's population;

Whereas women continue to play the predominant role in caring for families within the home, as well as increasingly supporting their families economically by working outside the home;

Whereas women worldwide participate in diplomacy and politics, contribute to the growth of economies, and improve the quality of the lives of their families, communities, and countries;

Whereas women leaders have recently made significant strides, including through the 2007 election of Representative Nancy Pelosi as the first female Speaker of the United States House of Representatives, the 2006 election of Michelle Bachelet as the first female President of Chile, the 2006 election of Ellen Johnson-Sirleaf as President of Liberia and the first female President in the history of Africa, and the 2005 election of Angela Merkel as the first female Chancellor of Germany and who will also serve in 2007 as the second woman to chair a G-8 summit;

Whereas women now account for 80 percent of the world's 70,000,000 micro-borrowers, 75 percent of the 28,000 United States loans supporting small business in Afghanistan are given to women, and 11 women are chief executive officers of Fortune 500 companies in the United States;

Whereas, in the United States, women are graduating from high school and earning bachelor's degrees and graduate degrees at rates greater than men, with 88 percent of women between the ages of 25 and 29 having obtained high school diplomas and 31 percent of women between the ages of 25 of 29 having earned bachelor's degrees;

Whereas even with the tremendous gains for women during the past 20 years, women still face political and economic obstacles, struggle for basic rights, face discrimination, and are targets of gender-based violence all over the world;

Whereas women remain vastly underrepresented worldwide in national and local legislatures, accounting on average for less than 10 percent of the seats in legislatures in most countries, and in no developing region do women hold more than 8 percent of legislative positions;

Whereas women work two-thirds of the world's working hours and produce half of the world's food, yet earn only 1 percent of the world's income and own less than 1 percent of the world's property;

Whereas, in the United States between 1995 and 2000, female managers earned less than their male counterparts in the 10 industries that employ the vast majority of all female employees;

Whereas, of the 1,300,000,000 people living in poverty around the world, 70 percent are women;

Whereas, according to the United States Agency for International Development, two-thirds of the 876,000,000 illiterate individuals worldwide are women, two-thirds of the

125,000,000 school-aged children who are not attending school worldwide are girls, and girls around the world are less likely to complete school than boys;

Whereas women account for half of all cases of HIV/AIDS worldwide, approximately 42,000,000 cases, and in countries with a high prevalence of HIV, young women are at a higher risk than young men of contracting HIV;

Whereas each year over 500,000 women globally die during childbirth or pregnancy;

Whereas domestic violence causes more deaths and disabilities among women between the ages of 15 and 44 than cancer, malaria, traffic accidents, and war;

Whereas worldwide at least 1 out of every 3 women and girls has been beaten in her lifetime, and usually the abuser is a member of the victim's family or is someone else known to the victim;

Whereas, according to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, at least 1 out of every 6 women and girls in the United States has been sexually abused in her lifetime;

Whereas, in the United States, one-third of the women murdered each year are killed by current or former husbands or boyfriends;

Whereas 130,000,000 girls and young women worldwide have been subjected to female genital mutilation and it is estimated that 10,000 girls are at risk of being subjected to the practice in the United States;

Whereas, according to the Congressional Research Service and the Department of State, illegal trafficking in women and children for forced labor, domestic servitude, or sexual exploitation involves between 600,000 and 900,000 women and children each year, of whom 17,500 are transported into the United States;

Whereas between 75 and 80 percent of the world's 27,000,000 refugees are women and children;

Whereas, in Iraq, women are increasingly becoming the targets of violence by Islamic extremists and street gangs;

Whereas, in Darfur, a growing number of women and girls are being raped, mainly by militia members who use sexual violence as a weapon of war;

Whereas, in Afghanistan, Safia Ama Jan, the former Director of Women's Affairs, became the first female assassinated since the fall of the Taliban; and

Whereas March 8 of each year has been known as "International Women's Day" for the last century, and is a day on which people, often divided by ethnicity, language, culture, and income, come together to celebrate a common struggle for women's equality, justice, and peace: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) supports the goals of "International Women's Day";

(2) recognizes and honors the women in the United States and in other countries who have fought and continue to struggle for gender equality and women's rights;

(3) reaffirms its commitment to ending discrimination and violence against women and girls, to ensuring the safety and welfare of women and girls, and to pursuing policies that guarantee the basic rights of women and girls both in the United States and in other countries; and

(4) encourages the people of the United States to observe International Women's Day with appropriate programs and activities.